

FACT SHEET

INTENT TO DENY A HAZARDOUS WASTE OPEN BURN/OPEN DETONATION PERMIT APPLICATION

FACILITY NAME: Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)

LOCATION: Oak Ridge, Roane County, Tennessee

FACILITY ADDRESS: Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Bethel Valley Road
P.O. Box 2008
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6269

OWNER/OPERATOR: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

CO-OPERATORS: Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC and WESKEM, LLC

FACILITY CONTACT: Mr. Tom Perry
Environmental Service Group
Oak Ridge Operations Office, DOE
PO Box 2001
Oak ridge, TN 37831

EPA ID No.: TN1 89 009 0003

UNIT: Open Detonation Unit, Chemical Detonation Facility

COMMENT PERIOD: Begins: January 17, 2005
Ends: March 2, 2005

FACILITY BACKGROUND

The Chemical Detonation Facility is an interim status RCRA hazardous waste treatment unit for highly reactive hazardous waste generated in operations or research and development activities on the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR). The facility was constructed in 1988 as a replacement to an earlier open detonation facility.

Research and development activities conducted on the ORR produce small quantities of explosive, shock-sensitive, or highly reactive waste. The wastes are usually outdated or surplus chemicals or mixtures of chemicals that are explosive and/or shock sensitive. The

safe handling and final treatment/disposal of these wastes are task that require careful consideration of human health and safety, and protection of the environment.

Commercially available, conventional technologies, such as incineration and physical/chemical treatment, are applied when the waste meets the receiving facility's acceptance criteria. Treatment of waste at the ORNL Chemical Detonation Facility is viewed as a "last resort" option. All wastes treated at the Chemical Detonation Facility are characteristic reactive waste. No radioactive or mixed waste is treated at this unit.

Use of the Chemical Detonation Facility has decreased over the last decade as alternative treatment technologies have become available. While open detonation was not the only feasible treatment option, in some cases it was the best option for treatment of highly reactive waste. Open detonation is a safe, cost-effective, versatile, and reliable method for treatment of small quantities of explosive or shock-sensitive, or reactive waste generated on the ORR.

The unit is located in a remote area approximately 2.9 km (1.8 miles) southeast of the main Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) complex, and approximately 5.44 km (3.4 miles) from the Oak Ridge city limits.

The unit consists of (1) two storage magazines, one for explosive material and detonation cord and one for the electric blasting caps; (2) an isolated detonation area that includes a trench; and (3) a control area. The site is cleared of timber and brush to prevent fires and provide clear visual observation of the entire area. A gravel road provides vehicle access to the area, and a bar gate located at the entrance to this unit is used to control access.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to explain the Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM), Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)'s **intent to deny the permit and terminate the unit's interim status**. On June 16, 2004, Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC on behalf of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, requested a withdrawal of the RCRA Part B Permit for the open detonation unit at the Chemical Detonation Facility. The application is no longer relevant due to the impending closure of the unit. The decision to deny the permit is directed by the request to withdraw the permit application due the impending closure of the open burn/open detonation unit.

After the DSWM has reviewed and addressed the comments from interested parties, a final decision will be made. If the decision is to deny the permit and terminate interim status the facility will be notified. This notification will require the facility to submit a closure plan for the open burn/open detonation unit. The closure plan will be made available for public review before its acceptance and implementation.

INFORMATION/COMMENTS

For further information contact Mr. Tom Perry, at 865-576-5587, or write to him at Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC, P.O. Box 4699, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

DSWM is hereby notifying interested members of the public that the Notice of Intent to Deny this permit and Terminate the unit' Interim Status and a Fact Sheet are available for review and comment. Interested persons may review these materials at any of the following locations: Oak Ridge Public Library, Civic Center, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN (865-425-3457); Kingston Public Library, 1004 Bradford Way, Kingston, TN (865-376-9905); DOE Oak Ridge Information Center, 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN (865-241-4780); and the TDEC DOE Oversight Division Office, 761 Emory Valley Rd, Oak Ridge, TN (865-481-0995); and TDEC Knoxville Environmental Field Office, Public Access Area, Suite 220 - State Plaza, 2700 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37921 (telephone 865-594-6035). Normal state office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

All persons who believe that the tentative decision to issue this termination is inappropriate must raise all ascertainable issues and submit all available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position by February 28, 2005.

Any interested person wishing to obtain further information, request a public hearing, or to comment on the proposed permit termination should submit requests or comments to: Mr. Malek Faradji; Corrective Action Section; Division of Solid Waste Management; Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; 5th Floor, L&C Tower; 401 Church Street; Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1535; telephone: 615-532-0822; fax 615-532-0886; or e-mail: Malek.Faradji@state.tn.us.